March Comes in Like a Lion

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SIGN: MONJA JIROU (PARODY OF MONJA TAROU)

Chapter.23

Year In

SFX: HAHAHAHA... (PANICKING)

S... SORRY!!

HEY.

WHO PUT STICKERS ON MOMMY'S DRAWERS?!

REALLY! THIS IS VERY HARD TO PEEL OFF, YOU KNOW!

Geez

Hmph Hmph

SORRY~

MOM...

...CHIHIRO.

...

...A DREAM...?

Rei-chan, good morning ☆

ARE YOU AWAKE, REI-CHAN?

ONEI-CHAN IS CALLING US FOR BREAKFAST.

GOOD MORNING.

ARE YOU STILL FEVERISH?

I THINK IT'S GONE DOWN A LOT.

I SHOULD BE OKAY NOW.

NEWSPAPER: NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS
MARUEI (DEPARTMENT STORE)
FUKUBUKURO

KIRIYAMA-KUN, WOULD YOU LIKE SOME OMOCHI? WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH IT?

HEY, MOMO, I CAN'T READ THE NEWSPAPER IF YOU'RE LIKE THIS.

There are so many ads in the newspaper!

Wow!!

SFX: MUSH (CRUSH)

SFX: ZUSSHIRI (PLUMP)

GOOD MORNING.

MORNING.

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

AH.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YA.

TELEVISION: NEW YEAR SPECIAL

新春スペシャル

AH, I GUESS I'LL HAVE CHEESE TOO...

Momo wants cheese!!

I want sweet soy sauce☆

SFX: PITO... OPAT...)

Hm—.....

HMM... YOU'RE STILL A BIT FEVERISH...

LET ME SEE?

AH...

Your feet will be cold if you're only wearing your pajamas...

COME, GET IN THE KOTATSU!

AND THEN TAKE SOME MEDICINE.

WELL, FOR NOW, JUST HAVE SOME FOOD

Nangajou!!

They're here—

Hm!?

That must be the mailman!!

Whirrr... Clank

Hot hot...

SFX: KOKOKO (HEATER) SFX: PIKURIN (TWANNG)

SFX: FUKO FUKO (FLUFF FLUFF)

AH, THERE'S ONE FOR MOMO TOO.

ONEI-CHAN'S, JII-CHAN'S,

What?

MINE, MINE,

THIS ONE'S MINE, ONEI-CHAN'S,

Really?

What? What? What? What?

SFX: FUN FUN (HMPH HMPH)

I wonder if we'll win anything from the Otoshidama-nenga ☆

Yuppp☆

HOW IS IT? DID WE GET A LOT?

SFX: HAFU HAFU (HUFF HUFF)

I DON'T THINK THERE WOULD BE ANY...

AH, NO...

Ohh right!! There might be some at Ree-chan's place too!! Nengajou!!

OH, MOMO RECEIVED SOME TOO? THAT'S WONDERFUL!

From the nursery school and from the pediatrician

Yeah☆

SFX: KARA KARA.... (PARCHED....)

I'm back...

I...

SFX: SOOO... (SLIDE)

20 minutes later...

I'll go get 'em for you!!

I'm taking your key.

AH! WAIT! D-DON'T!

THAT WOULD JUST MAKE ME STICK OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB!

You wait here ☆ I'll be back really soon!

SFX: SHUN SHUN (WHEE WHEE)

SFX: DADAA (THUD THUD)

SFX: PIRA.... (FLAP....)

EH?

I GOT SOME?

I THOUGHT THERE'D BE ZERO.

SFX: SUSUSU... (SLIDE...)

Two...

Two cards.

Nenga-jou...

You received some—

Erm. You...

Can't look him in the eye.

—OKAY, THE OTHER ONE IS...

CARD: KIRIYAMA REI-SAMA

賀正

Mikado

桐山!! C1で戦える日を楽しみにしてるぞ!!

What kind of cottage is this? A castle?! And there's a hot air balloon? Is it made with Photoshop? Ah! It's actually flying!!

THE FIRST ONE IS...

It's Bodoro!!

CARD: KIRIYAMA!! NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS 20XX I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DAY OF THE C1 BATTLE!! —HIKADOU TOGETHER WITH MY BELOVED DOG ELIZABETH. FROM OUR COTTAGE THAT LOOKS OUT TO FUJI

SFX: ZUBAAAKU (ZUH-BAAAH!?)

CARD TOP: JAPAN SHOGI ASSOCIATION WISHING YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR

ずばーむっ?

日本将棋連盟

新春のお慶びを申し上げます

日本将棋連盟会長　第十六世名人

神宮寺崇徳

JAPAN SHOGI ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN

WITH HONORARY MEIJIN

▷バショウカジキ[180cm]
PEライン3号-200m
リーダー-80ポンド
マレーシア沖にて…

JINGUUJI TAKANORI

CARD BOTTOM LEFT: SAILFISH (180 CM)
PE 3 FISHING LINE - 200 M
LEADER - 80 LB
IN THE OPEN SEAS OF MALAYSIA...

A fishing oji-chan?

WHO... IS THIS?

Chair-man...

Um...

He really went and did it...

I'LL SAY THIS FIRST. HE WAS REALLY STRONG, YOU KNOW? THOUGH HE'S ALWAYS BEEN RATHER OFFBEAT.

DESPITE HIS APPEARANCE, HE DID TAKE THE MEIJIN TITLE SEVEN TIMES... WAIT, WHY AM I DEFENDING THIS PERSON!?

What happened to shogi?

Sailfish? Malaysia?

SFX: GARA GARA... (RATTLE...)

Goood afternoon--

Happy New Year! It's me, Miyaki-oba-chan--

カラカラ

賀正

BAG: NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

THERE ☆
MOMO.
HINA.
Ohh, right! Otoshidama ☆
Misaki-obachan, look at Momo's nengajou!!
Pheeew- I feel so relieved!
BEING AT THE IN-LAWS' HAVE MADE MY SHOULDERS ALL STIFF!
AH— IT FEELS GOOD TO BE HOME!
Fanks berry muchie! Kya kya
Whee! What should I buy?
Kyaa Thank you very much!
SFX: DON (THUD)
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU LIKE TO PRETEND. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALL ABOUT APPEAR-ANCES.
YOU WERE SO GOOD AT IT.
OBA-CHAN, PLEASE HAVE SOME TEA.
OH MY, THANKS☆ WHAT A GOOD GIRL, HINA-CHAN.
AKARI, TOO.
Eh? Me too?
HERE, OTOU-SAN.
Ohh, are you sure, Oba-sama?
IT'S ALL RIGHT- IT WAS A WHILE AGO, BUT DIDN'T YOU BRING ISSA-SAN AND SMITH-SAN TO OUR STORE? WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU AGAIN☆
Hehe Hehe Hehe
Ka-ching
SFX: BIKAA (FLASH)
EH? EH? EVEN ME? HOW CAN I ACCEPT...?
I HEARD THAT YOU GOT SICK ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, SO YOU GOT *KIDNAPPED* BY AKARI HERE?
MR. SHOGI.
Even though it's not much☆
—OH RIGHT, I SHOULD GIVE ONE TO YOU TOO☆
—THEN, THESE ARE...
HERE.
MOM, MIKAKO.
MISAKI IS HERE TO VISIT YOU.
HAPPY NEW YEAR.
Please watch over me this year, too.

DAD, MY STORE ISN'T SOME DANGEROUS PLACE.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT BIG, IT'S A REFINED PLACE. MOST OF THE CUSTOMERS ARE REGULARS. IT'S MY PRECIOUS CASTLE

EVEN IF YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT

Hmmmm...

I NEVER AGREED TO THIS, YOU UNDER-STAND?

YOU CAN'T ALWAYS BE BOTHERING FAMILY MEMBERS RECRUIT SOME NEW PEOPLE

DON'T INVOLVE AKARI IN YOUR SKETCHY BUSINESS

—HEY, MISAKI YOU STILL WANT AKARI TO HELP YOU OUT THIS YEAR?

TWO DAYS A WEEK MAY BE DIFFICULT, BUT IT ISN'T BAD TO LET HER PUT ON MAKEUP, WEAR PRETTY CLOTHES, AND GET OUT OF THE HOUSE

SHE'S SUCH A PRETTY GIRL, BUT WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN SHE MISSES THE CHANCE TO GET MARRIED BECAUSE SHE'S WORN OUT FROM ALL THE HOUSEWORK?

DO YOU MEAN TO CONTINUE LIKE THIS, LETTING AKARI SPEND HER YEARS BEING STUCK AT HOME, DOING HOUSEWORK AND TAKING CARE OF CHILDREN?

SHE'S A VERY SERIOUS GIRL, SO SHE WILL REALLY TRY TO TAKE ON THE ROLE OF THE MOTHER, YOU KNOW?

SFX: BIRAAN (SPARKLING)

DON'T WORRY.

IN MY STORE, I WON'T LET ANYONE LAY A SINGLE FINGER ON AKARI.

NO... RATHER, I WILL TAKE THEIR MONEY FROM THEM WITHOUT LETTING THEM TOUCH... WHAT I MEAN IS...

BECAUSE THEY "CANNOT TOUCH", THEY GET "DESPERATE" SUCH IS THE MONEY-SPENDING NATURE OF MEN THAT WE...

SEIZE☆

Baa-san!! Your daughter is a devil! You gave birth to a devil!!

SFX: HIII (EEK)

SFX: GU (CLENCH)

SFX: NIYAA (Black pearl from the South Seas (Gigantic))

SFX: PAPAAN (TA-DAA)

SFX: TEKAA (GLEAMING)

WOW, SO AMAZING!! YOU'RE HARDCORE! YOU EVEN MADE *OSECHI?!*

AND IN MODERN STYLE! IT LOOKS REALLY DELICIOUS.

HINA AND I DESIGNED IT TOGETHER. WE GATHERED ALL THE THINGS REPRESENTING GOOD OMENS

OUR GOAL WAS TO CREATE A DELICIOUS NEW YEAR'S DISH.

HAVE SOME OF THE MEAL HINA AND I MADE TOGETHER

OBA-SAMA, WILL YOU STAY FOR DINNER?

OH MY THEN, I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON THAT OFFER MY HUSBAND WENT TO WATCH SOCCER ANYWAY.

FOR BETTER LUCK WITH MONEY, WE SHOULD HAVE GOLD-COLOURED KINTON, RIGHT?

FOR CHILDREN TO GROW PROPERLY, WE SHOULD HAVE PORK AND BEANS, RIGHT?

USUALLY, IF WE BOUGHT BOTH RED AND WHITE FISH PASTE, WE'D NEVER FINISH IT, SO WE MADE POUNDED FISH CAKE, ALTERNATING RED AND WHITE BALLS ON A SKEWER, KIND OF LIKE DANGO, RIGHT?

TO PRAY FOR OJII-CHAN'S LONGEVITY, WE SHOULD HAVE MINI HAMBURGER TURTLES, RIGHT?

IN ORDER TO STAY ROOTED... WE HAVE BURDOCK BEEF ROLLS, RIGHT?

FOR BETTER PROSPECTS, WE SHOULD HAVE KINPIRA LOTUS ROOTS, RIGHT?

I tried cutting wieners into the shape of a fish ☆

Look-

Look-

And then of course there are datemaki and sweet nishiki tamago...

Osechi... Right... They're all filled with wishes...

And then bubble gum- okay?

Put some spaghetti in too. okay?

NYA- YUM

MIKAKO AND OBAA-CHAN USED TO WORK HARD TO MAKE OSECHI, TOO.

SO AMAZING, YOU TWO!

Person who only ate.

SAY HIN (TOUCHED)

THE FEELING OF *"WE'RE FINALLY DONE!!"* OR *"WOW!!☆"*.

—I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT WE HAD WHEN WE REALLY DID FILL IT UP.

We did it☆
Whee☆

HOW TO SAY THIS... IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE *"I MUST FILL IT UP!!"*

JUST LOOKING AT THIS OJUUBAKO, I CAN'T HELP IT...

SEX, IEEEUH (YEAHOOEY)

...Only after conquering the hassle can one truly possess...

AH—

THE "SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT" AND "HASSLE" GO *HAND IN HAND.*

I UNDER-STAND

I REALLY *CAN* UNDER-STAND, YOU KNOW—

IT'S INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT TO ACHIEVE THAT "SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT" ON TOP OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE.

Right??

EXACTLY!!

SFX: FUU (PHEEW)

I'LL BE BACK! LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

ALL RIGHT!

THANKS FOR HAVING ME OVER!

THIS SPACE?

—OH RIGHT, THEN, KIRIYAMA-KUN,

WE NEED THIS SPACE RIGHT NOW, SO COULD YOU GO TO THE SECOND FLOOR?

Onerchan will wash the dishes..!!!

HINA, MOMO, COULD YOU TAKE YOUR BATHS?

OH NO! IT'S THIS LATE ALREADY?!

ボー！

SFX: GARARA (RATTLING)

SFX: BOON BOON BOON (BOONG BOONG SOUND)

After opening the living room window, a bathroom appears!!

And there isn't even a changing room!!!

RIGHT HERE.

EHHH!?

WHAT THE HELL!?

AWA

BUT THE TRUTH IS, THE KAWAMOTO BATH IS..

YES. IT MIGHT BE THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SEEN THIS.

—BUT, AS THE FAMILY GREW, WE ADDED THIS BATHROOM IN OUR COURTYARD.

A LONG TIME AGO, WE HAD NO BATH, SO OUR FAMILY WOULD GO TO THE RIVERBANK

GOOD NIGHT!

Rei-chan, don't look, okaaay? ☆

SORRY, REI-CHAN.

Ah.

No, I'm the one who should say sorry.

Change of clothes.

Towel

G-good night...

Ah, ah....

SINCE WE'RE MOSTLY WOMEN HERE, WE DID WANT TO BUILD A CHANGING ROOM,

BUT IF WE DID BUILD ONE, TWE WOULDN'T HAVE ANY COURTYARD LEFT PLUS, THAT WOULD COST A LOT OF MONEY...

—HOWEVER, IT'S A BIT TROUBLESOME WHEN A GUEST COMES OVER...

HERE

I... I never knew...

THIS FAMILY IS REALLY SOMETHING...

S-s-

Scared me to death...

NOW THEN,

I'VE TAKEN MY MEDICINE, SO..

Why is it that I can sleep with such ease

in the home of a family I've only known just recently?

I still think it's incredible.

Ah... How convenient having the string here

Why do I feel so peaceful when I'm here?

Why...

Why did I have such a long-forgotten dream?

In this old house,

I feel like time, everyone, everything

and even myself,

are all quietly drawn into its embrace, dozing off.

–And just like that, I fell asleep

a sleep that was so deep and peaceful

I don't know how long it's been since I'd last slept like this...

Chapter 23 end

BE WITH YOU SCANS NOTES

PAGE 028

MOCHI is a glutinous rice cake eaten year-round, but especially during New Year's.

FUKUBUKURO is a "lucky" mystery bag of goods containing random items sold at substantial discounts on New Year's.

PAGE 029

A KOTATSU is a low table with a heavy blanket skirt and an electric heater underneath. They are often the centre of family life in homes during cold months.

NENGAJOU are New Year's postcards. The Japanese mail nengajou to friends and relatives, similar to the Western custom of sending Christmas cards.

PAGE 030

OTOSHIDAMA-NENGA is short for "Otoshidama-Tsuki Nenga Hagaki". On the back of Japan Post's popular prepaid blank nengajou postcards are lottery numbers, the prizes for which are often stamps.

BE WITH YOU SCANS NOTES CONTINUED

PAGE 033

OTOSHIDAMA are small decorated envelopes containing money, customarily given to children. The amount of money can vary greatly between families or the age of the recipient.

PAGE 035

OSECHI, shortened from osechi-ryouri, are a special selection of dishes associated with New Year celebrations. There are many variations of osechi, differing by region across Japan.

PAGE 036

KINPIRA is a Japanese cooking technique of sautéing and simmering. It features soy sauce and mirin and is most commonly used to cook root vegetables, seaweed, or tofu.

KINTON is a dish of sweet potatoes and sweetened chestnuts.

DATEMAKI is a sweet rolled omelette mixed with fish paste or mashed shrimp.

NISHIKI-TAMAGO is an egg roulade. The separated yolks symbolize gold, and the egg whites represent silver.

BE WITH YOU SCANS NOTES CONTINUED

PAGE 037

JUUBAKO are sets of tiered lacquered boxes similar to bento boxes for more formal, traditional occasions.

PAGE 038

In Japanese homes, toilets and baths are typically separated into different rooms and may be in entirely different areas.

After opening the living room window, a bathroom appears!!
And there isn't even a changing room!!!
RIGHT HERE.
BUT THE TRUTH IS, THE KAWAMOTO BATH IS...
YES. IT MIGHT BE THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SEEN THIS.
WHAT THE HELL!?